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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Semi-Annual Status Report

Reporting Period: 1 January - 30 June 1955

National Security Council Intelligence Directive 15 charges the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications (ACFLP) with assisting the Director of Central Intelligence in the coordination of the procurement, exploitation and referencing of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes. During the reporting period, the ACFLP, through its subcommittees, has furthered the objectives of the NSCID as follows:

1. Procurement of foreign language publications for more than 20 Government agencies is now coordinated in the Foreign Branch/CIA library as a service of common concern. Field coordination has been improved by the establishment of a Document Procurement Committee [redacted] to exploit the facilities available to all agencies operating in the Far East for procurement of Communist Chinese and other foreign language materials of intelligence interest. Collection guides for Communist Chinese newspapers and periodicals have been disseminated to field collection stations of Army, Navy, Air, State, and the CIA. The renewed availability of Knishmaya Letopis' (Book Annals) since 1 January 1955 has provided the community with accurate current bibliographic information on Soviet publications. Of the 350 monographs listed in a January 1955 issue, 35% have been procured for the intelligence community.

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2. Exploitation of foreign language materials has resulted in systematic and detailed surveys on 9 geographic areas of the world in which intelligence interest was strong. These surveys encompassed a) a review of the continuing needs of the various agencies for information on the areas b) existing governmental facilities for exploitation of the publications and their capacity to satisfy any of the stated needs of the various agencies and c) source material available including a determination of that currently exploited which should be dropped and that not exploited which should be covered. The first annual "Foreign Publications Exploitation Review" has been issued. The nature and scope of all known intelligence exploitation of foreign publications in the US and abroad are discussed in the Review.

3. Referencing of foreign language materials has been improved by production of research aids, and cooperative indexing procedures among the several agencies. The

captured document collections from World War II were reviewed to determine location, control, and condition of the various collections.

Recent developments have justified to a limited degree the earlier predictions of an improved flow of Soviet literature to the West in 1955. Worth noting is the reappearance of such technical journals as Stal' (Steel), Davodskaya Laboratoriya (Plant Laboratory), and Gornyy Zhurnal (Mining Journal). Mention was made above of the Soviet weekly bibliographic journal Knizhnaya Letopis' (Book Annals) which has reappeared after an absence of 8 years from the shelves of Western libraries. Detailed studies of Soviet publishing by subject category and in terms of institutes and key personnel are underway in the intelligence community.

O/DD/I  
[REDACTED]/hmf  
13 July 1955

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